

February 12, 2003

Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20544

RE: CC Docket No. 01-338, Review of the Section 251 Unbundling Obligations of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers

Dear Commissioner Powell:

As the CEO of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, I know that our community's growth is dependent on access to the latest technologies and advancements in the telecommunications industry – and at a reasonable price. That is why, more than ever, the telecommunications industry's unrest is a serious concern.

The San Diego Workforce Partnership was created to provide for a regional and comprehensive system of planning and administration of education, job training and employment resources. An even playing field for our telecommunications partners provides incentives for investment in their network, and provides many of the jobs for which we prepare our those we serve.

It is clear that the telecommunications downturn has reverberations throughout communities nationwide. It is time the FCC creates a level playing field for telecommunications companies to compete on - and looks out for the interests of not just businesses, but present and future employees as well..

It is critical that the FCC establishes a national framework governing the telecom industry that encourages investment in infrastructure and creates an environment allowing for long-term, sustainable competition.

The current regulations stifle competition – and drive up prices for businesses, as well as making it difficult and costly to deploy the telecommunications services that we need for our businesses to grow and succeed. The FCC should eliminate the unbundled network element platform (UNE-P), which has devastated investment and growth, as well as other unbundling requirements where facilities-based competition has developed.

Broadband deployment has been sluggish due to inefficient regulations. Freeing broadband investment from costly unbundling requirements will encourage further investment and the deployment of valuable new technologies nationwide. That means more jobs for those who want to work...the very people we serve at the Partnership.

Sincerely,

Lawrence G. Fitch
President & CEO

Cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Martin
Commissioner Copps